

REMARKS

In view of the preceding amendments and the comments, which follow, and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.111, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Official Action of January 30, 2004.

Summary

Claims 9 and 10 are pending following consideration of the following remarks.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 9 - 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kuo (US 5,677,711) in view of Mikan (US 6,469,694). The pending claim 9 is directed to an input control system comprising an input pad having a coordinate input portion for inputting data and four switches.

The Examiner states that although Kuo does not teach or suggest that each of the four switches comprises a default operation, but that Mikan discloses an input system with four switches whose respective default operation is changeable to a different operation by changing the switch mode. However, Applicant respectfully traverses the claim rejections. Applicant respectfully points out that claim 9 recites that the default operation for each of said four switches is changeable to a different operation by setting commands generated in a switch input section driver, rather than by changing the switch mode.

Further, in Mikan, it should be apparent that only two types of input commands can be set (or changed) for each switch because the operation of each of the switches is only switched by the changing of the switch mode. Applicant refers the Examiner a listing of dual keys provided in the second lower half of Column 4.

In contrast, independent claim 9 recites that when each of the four switches is switched to an ON state, i.e. default operation, setting or changing of the input commands for the operation of each switch can be performed by settings various input commands generated by the switch input section driver. Consequently, three or more types of input commands can be set (or changed) for each switch, not the types disclosed in Mikan. Accordingly, independent claim

9 is not rendered unpatentable by Kuo or Mikan, taken singly or in combination with each other. Claim is dependent on claim 9, and is likewise patentable.

In addition, with respect to Mikan, the filing date of its priority provisional application is April 13, 1999 and the filing date of the non-provisional application is April 12, 2000. Whereas, the priority date of the Applicant's application is the filing date of the submitted priority Japanese patent application JP 2000-069861, namely March 14, 2000. Thus, the Mikan reference may not be used to support the Examiner's rejection of claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

For at least one of the above discussed reasons, Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejections of claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance, and favorable reconsideration of this application. If, there are additional fees due, Applicants request that this paper constitutes any necessary petition and authorizes the Commissioner to charge any underpayment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-1925.

If the examiner finds that there are any outstanding issues which may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number

Respectfully submitted,
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